



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION VIII

999 18th STREET - SUITE 500  
DENVER, COLORADO 80202-2466

457523 - R8 SDMS

478712

457523

Ref: 8ENF-T

ENFORCEMENT CONFIDENTIAL  
FOIA EXEMPT

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: CERCLA Cost Recovery Close Out Memorandum  
County Line Mercury Site - SSID 8-5J  
Douglas County, Colorado

FROM: Sharon L. Kercher, Director  
Technical Enforcement Program

*Sharon L. Kercher*

TO: Carol Rushin  
Assistant Regional Administrator  
Office of Enforcement, Compliance,  
and Environmental Justice

Please find attached, a Close Out Memorandum for the County Line Mercury Site in Douglas County, Colorado, SSID 8-5J. EPA has spent approximately \$62,247.35 on this response action from 5/1/96-8/31/96. (Please see attached summary report.) I recommend that EPA close out this site without pursuing further cost recovery actions. Please indicate below your approval/disapproval of the decision not to pursue cost recovery at this site.

Approve

*Sharon L. Kercher*  
*for Carol Rushin*

Date

4-20-98

Disapprove

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

Attachments

cc: Frank MacFadden, 8TMS-F (w/attachment)  
Peter Stevenson, 8EPR (w/attachment)  
Sharon Abendschan, 8ENF-T (w/attachment)  
Kelcey Yarbrough Land, 8ENF-T (w/attachment)



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Ref: 8ENF/EPR

ENFORCEMENT CONFIDENTIAL  
FOIA EXEMPT

DATE: March 11, 1998

SUBJECT: Decision Not to Pursue Cost Recovery  
County Line Mercury Site - 85J  
Douglas County, Colorado

FROM: Peter Stevenson, On-Scene-Coordinator  
Emergency Response Program/EPR-ER

Sharon Abendschan, Enforcement Specialist  
Technical Enforcement Program

THRU: Kelcey Yarbrough Land, Cost Recovery Program Manager  
Technical Enforcement Program

TO: Sharon L. Kercher, Director  
Technical Enforcement Program

INTRODUCTION

This memorandum shall serve as the basis for EPA Region VIII's decision not to pursue cost recovery at the County Line Mercury Site in Douglas County, Colorado. The EPA/CERCLIS ID number for this site is C00001410265 and the Site Spill ID (SSID) number is 08-5J. The site has not been listed on the National Priorities List. EPA has spent approximately \$62,247.35 at this site from 5/1/96-8/31/96. No future response costs will be incurred at this site.

This document was prepared in accordance with OSWER Directive Number 9832.11, "Guidance on Documenting Decisions Not to Take Cost Recovery Actions", dated June 7, 1988.



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## SITE DESCRIPTION

The County Line Mercury Site is located at 600 West County Line, Douglas County, Colorado. This response was initiated on May 5, 1996 and involved the release of nine vials of mercury into the area of an apartment complex and a storm drain.

## RESPONSE ACTIONS

A removal action at the site was initiated within 24 hours of EPA's notification by the Littleton Fire Department as a classic emergency on May 5, 1996. EPA used its On Scene Coordinator (OSC), toxicologist, and cleanup contractors to provide technical assistance in identification of cleanup areas and assisted the local residents with blood sampling and in assessing potential migration of mercury to a water supply reservoir (Highline Canal).

Spillage around the areas of 5 apartments, on the concrete walkways and landscaping was cleaned up. Carpet was also removed in two apartments and the disposal/sink areas were tested for contamination and/or removed by EPA. Individuals who touched and/or played with the mercury were tested by their personal physicians.

EPA thoroughly investigated both apartments and removed contaminated clothing, vacuums, and other personal items. Some contaminated items were cleaned and returned to the owner. Building management provided temporary housing for the tenants in apartment #16-103. Building management removed contaminated carpet from apartment #16-103 and replaced it with new carpet. EPA collected air samples from both apartments after all cleanup activities had been completed and monitored mercury vapor levels in the two apartments.

EPA retrieved and will dispose of or recycle the Littleton Fire Department shop vacuum and vials of mercury. All contaminated carpet and personal items, as well as soil sediment, was sent to Mercury Refinery in Albany, New York.

EPA cleaned up the sewer and storm drain by removing all sediment and debris in the storm drain and by removing 1" of sediment from the storm sewer. Confirmatory samples were collected afterwards, which indicated all contamination had been removed.

## RESPONSE COSTS

The response costs incurred at the site are attached to this memorandum in EPA's Superfund Cost Organization and Enhancement System's (SCORE\$) summary cost report. The total costs incurred were approximately \$62,247.35.



### PRP SEARCH/INVESTIGATION AND ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

A PRP search was not initiated on this site. The mercury viles found on the site have an unknown source. EPA's Criminal Investigation team were involved with the investigation, attempting to locate the source for illegal disposal of the mercury viles and were unable to determine a source for the illegal dumping.

There were no enforcement actions taken at this site due to no known potentially responsible party (PRP).

### DISCUSSION OF BASIS NOT TO PURSUE COST RECOVERY ACTIONS

EPA will not pursue cost recovery at this site due to the inability to identify any PRPs at the site. EPA involved the Criminal Investigation Program and was still unsuccessful at identifying any PRPs. In addition to the above-mentioned basis to not pursue cost recovery actions, EPA lacks the resources to pursue this case.

### CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

In summary, for the reasons noted above, EPA believes this case should be closed out.

#### Attachments

cc: Frank MacFadden, 8TMS-F  
Peter Stevenson, 8EPR-ER  
Sharon Abendschan, ENF-T  
Kelcey Yarbrough Land, ENF-T



CONCURRENCE COPY

Ref: 8ENF-T

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FOIA EXEMPT

MEMORANDUM

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County Line Mercury Site - SSID 8-5J  
Douglas County, Colorado

FROM: Sharon L. Kercher, Director  
Technical Enforcement Program



TO: Carol Rushin  
Assistant Regional Administrator  
Office of Enforcement, Compliance,  
and Environmental Justice

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Approve  Date 4-20-98

Disapprove \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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cc: Frank MacFadden, 8TMS-F (w/attachment)  
Peter Stevenson, 8EPR (w/attachment)  
Sharon Abendschan, 8ENF-T (w/attachment)  
Kelcey Yarbrough Land, 8ENF-T (w/attachment)

SA  
ENF-T  
3/10/98

PS  
8-11-96  
7/25/96

8ENF-L  
Reiner  
4/16/98

Ref: 8ENF/EPR

ENFORCEMENT CONFIDENTIAL  
FOIA EXEMPT

DATE: March 11, 1998

SUBJECT: Decision Not to Pursue Cost Recovery  
County Line Mercury Site - 85J  
Douglas County, Colorado

FROM: Peter Stevenson, On-Scene-Coordinator  
Emergency Response Program/EPR-ER

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Technical Enforcement Program

THRU: Kelcey Yarbrough Land, Cost Recovery Program Manager  
Technical Enforcement Program

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